

WROXETER & UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 11th November at 7:30pm Visitor Centre, Wroxeter Vineyard

Present: Councillors Miss V Amos, Mr B Nelson, Mrs J Davies, Mr P Davies, Mr M Millington, Mr K Rowlands, Mr I Sherwood

In attendance: Councillor C Wild (Shropshire Council), Mr A Gough (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

1. PUBLIC SESSION

Residents from Brookside in Wroxeter attended the meeting to raise concerns about how the installed sewage system is managed by Home Plus / Severnside. 12 properties utilise the installed sewage plant at Brookside. Billing is managed by Homes Plus who retrieve the cost of running the plant from residents, although it appears that some residents are still being billed by Severnside and it may be that the 12 households do not all pay equal shares of the costs.

Residents stated that there was no detailed breakdown showing exactly what costs have been incurred in operating the plant and therefore, what the residents should be paying for the services they receive. None of the residents have had sight of any contractual arrangements between themselves and Homes Plus detailing the relationship between the residents and Home Plus, the rights and requirements of those using the system, arrangements for insurance and any maintenance.

Residents are not aware of a programme for inspections, emptying or servicing contracted by Home Plus and therefore whether the funding they are providing is being appropriately spent on their behalf. There does not appear to be a locally available means of emergency response or other access to the sewage plant. Previously there does not seem to have been any significant maintenance work carried out within the compound of the sewage plant, nor on the access lane or the hedgerow/trees alongside the lane which is making vehicular access difficult.

It is understood that Homes Plus will be handing over the management of the sewage plant to Wrekin Housing in the next few weeks, but the residents have not been contacted about this or received any documentation regarding how this transfer is taking place, whether there will be any changes to the management regime for the plant, or for billing. Residents have not been given a clear contact name of a person at Homes Plus who is very familiar with the operation, management and billing associated with the sewage plant and who is the person they should deal with.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Nelson would contact Home Plus by email raising the concerns of residents and asking for a written response to the points set out above.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No Apologies

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS

No Declarations

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 9th September 2024.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

Digital Switchover – As discussed at the meeting on 9th September a voucher scheme is being run through Openreach. Pledging for a Gigabit voucher is now open at [Connect My Community \(openreach.com\)](https://connectmycommunity.openreach.com). The scheme is available to improve gigabit broadband connection. This will be rolled out in a very small area within the parish, specifically in the following postcode areas **TF6 5HJ; TF6 5HD; TF6 5ET and TF6 5EN**. If, or when, Openreach obtains the required number of vouchers, it will move into delivering the network build. At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th January at 7.30 there will be a presentation by Openreach on the roll out of broadband to those who live in the postcode areas. Openreach will explain the scheme, the voucher programme, promote pledges and how to register for the scheme. They will also answer any questions residents have regarding the scheme. Alongside the meeting, Openreach will also be visiting properties in the postcode areas to promote the scheme and distribute leaflets and flyers explaining the scheme. It is understood that there should be opportunities for further broadband projects within the parish in the coming year, but details of these schemes have yet to be released. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Nelson would continue to liaise with Openreach in respect of the visit and meeting in January.

6. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr Wild reported that following a further incident at the junction of the B5061 & B4394 in September a meeting had taken place between the Parish Council, Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police to discuss what measures could be taken to try and reduce future accidents. Norton is on a very long list of sites for consideration for road modifications. However, the representative from Shropshire Council reported that a traffic speed assessment had been carried out at Norton earlier in the year and, whilst the recorded speeds were rather lower than expected, it was felt that the Parish Council could ask for a reduction in the speed limit to 50mph. This would hopefully be supported by West Mercia Police if it was proposed by Shropshire Council.

In the coming months both the Parish Council and Shropshire Council will be investigating what funding could be available to undertake work at the junction. In the meantime, the representative from West Mercia Police said he would endeavour to get additional speed checks carried out at the junction. It was **RESOLVED** that Clerk would draft a letter to be sent to businesses at Atcham Business Park to see if any would financially support the work undertaken at the junction. It was also **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would look at the possibility of making an application for funding to the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

A concern was raised regarding reports on Fix My Street being removed before they had been dealt with. Cllr. Wild said she would raise these concerns.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve Q2 budget report and bank reconciliation
- b) The Parish Council presented the initial draft budget. It was proposed that the precept be reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted. Councillors were invited to propose any amendments to the budget in advance of the January meeting, at which the 2025/26 must be approved and the precept set.

It had already been agreed to invite SDH Accounting to be the internal auditor.

- c) It was **RESOLVED** to agree the payment made between meetings:

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P20-2024/25	A Gough	Salary – October (inc. backdated salary 2023/24)*	£409.32

* As resolved at the Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2024 item 11

d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments to be made by online banking:

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P21-2024/25	A Gough	Salary – November (inc. backdated annual salary increase 2024/25)**	£276.16
P22-2024/25	A Gough	Expenses – Oct / November	£26.12

** Local Government Annual Pay Agreement – resolved at Parish Council meeting held on 9th September 2024 item 11.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council had received notification that the Government was consulting on remote attendance and proxy voting at Council meetings. This consultation is online until the 19th December.

The Parish Council has received updated information on the Rights of Way consultation that had been discussed at the meeting in September. It was agreed to put the new papers on the Councils website for residents to access and make any comments.

9. PARISH MATTERS

The Clerk continues to work with Hugo Fox in order to set up the .gov.uk domain for the Parish Council. The Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair will also have access to none personalised .gov.uk email addresses.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting was declared closed at 20:34

Signed (Chairman):.....

Date:.....